

find convenient excuses to deny the American people a balanced budget. An unbreakable enforcement mechanism is clearly needed to ensure that those who would continue to spend our children's future further into debt are not able to do so.

I also want to make plain that the Social Security trust fund has no place in this debate. The independent trust fund is a sacred trust between generations and must never be used to balance the budget or hide the true size of the deficit.

Commonsense conservatives in Congress and the American people are committed to balancing the budget. I look forward to working throughout this session with all of my colleagues and the White House to pass the balanced budget constitutional amendment on a bipartisan basis. The obligations we owe to hard working American families, their children, and our Nation's future generations deserve nothing less than decisive action to preserve our future by balancing the budget. A constitutional amendment will ensure this outcome.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
SAN LEANDRO CITY COUNCIL-
MEMBER GARRY LOEFFLER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize San Leandro City Councilmember Garry Loeffler on his retirement after 8 years of distinguished service on the Council and a lifetime of leadership in the San Leandro Unified School District.

First elected to the City Council in 1994, Loeffler has served on many committees dedicated to improving the city, including Disaster Council, Rules and Communications, School Liaison, Finance, Human Relations, and Facilities.

He is a strong supporter of the Seniors Commission, and a founding member of the San Leandro Collaborative for Families and Youth. Beyond the Council, Loeffler is active on regional groups including the Association of Bay Area Governments and the League of California Cities.

Dedicated to education, Loeffler was Principal or Vice-Principal of six of San Leandro's eight elementary schools during his 33-year career in education. Prior to his teaching career, he served active duty in the Army from 1963 until 1965. He remained in the Army Reserves until 1983, retiring as Lieutenant Colonel.

I am honored to congratulate Garry Loeffler on his retirement. The City of San Leandro is a better place today thanks to his years of dedicated service.

RECOGNITION OF CARLO
CARRIERE

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Carlo Carriere, a highly

respected and influential member of the Glaziers local Union 1087 who recently announced his retirement. In his 32 years as a member, Carlo was a leading voice for labor. He joined the union as an apprentice in 1970 and quickly became a leader.

Carlo proudly served his country in the United States Army from 1966 to 1968 where he attained the rank of Staff Sergeant. After the terrorist attacks of 9/11, he again served his country by leading a contingent of Glaziers in rescue and clean up of the World Trade Center site.

As a member of LU 1087, Carlo was elected District Council Delegate in 1973 and just three years later was elected to the Executive Board in 1976. He continued his accession in 1982 when he was elected as Vice President of the LU 1087. During his tenure as Vice President Carlo, became a Business Representative and was elected Chairman of the National Glaziers and Glass Workers Apprenticeship Program in 1990. He also served as a Trustee to the Union Funds beginning in 1986. In 1995 he was elected Business Manager of LU 1087. Just one year later, upon the full affiliation of LU 1087 with District Council 9, Carlo was appointed Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

Carlo Carriere is responsible for the current strength of LU 1087. He leaves behind a strong legacy and is a good example of the difference one person can make. I applaud Carlo for his dedication to our community, and thank him on behalf of the people of the 4th Congressional District who have benefitted from his hard work and commitment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE KEEPING
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SAFE
ACT OF 2003

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the "Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003" to reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), the Adoption Opportunities program, the Abandoned Infants Act, and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA).

Unfortunately, last Congress the House and Senate were unable to reach agreement on all issues pertaining to the reauthorization of CAPTA and its related programs and acts. The bill I am introducing today once again puts forth our bipartisan effort and ongoing commitment to ensuring that programs aimed at the prevention of child abuse and neglect continue.

The Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003 supports the continued provision of important federal resources for identifying and addressing the issues of child abuse and neglect, and supports effective methods of prevention and treatment. It also continues local projects with demonstrated value in eliminating barriers to permanent adoption and in addressing the circumstances that often lead to infant abandonment.

This bill emphasizes the prevention of child abuse and neglect before it occurs. It retains language promoting partnerships between child protective services and private and com-

munity-based organizations to ensure that services are more effectively provided, and retains important language supporting public education on child abuse and neglect by strengthening the public's understanding of the role of the child protection system and appropriate methods for public reporting of suspected incidents of child maltreatment.

This bill also continues to foster cooperation between parents and child protective services workers by requiring case workers to inform parents of the allegations made against them, and improves the training opportunities and requirements for child protective services personnel regarding the extent and limits of their legal authority and the legal rights of parents and guardians.

Lastly, this bill ensures the safety of foster and adoptive children by requiring states to conduct criminal background checks for prospective foster and adoptive parents and other adult relatives and non-relatives residing in the household.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to back this important bipartisan legislation that supports improved services for children and families in the prevention and treatment of child abuse, neglect and family violence.

DESIGNATING "GOD BLESS AMERICA"
AS OUR NATIONAL HYMN

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce a simple piece of legislation that will provide all Americans with another important national symbol which they can lean on during times of national stress. The legislation will designate "God Bless America" as our National Hymn. The first words of this song, "God Bless America, land that I love," say it all. They are simple, direct, and they truly reflect the spirit of our country during this latest challenge.

Although nothing can surpass the importance or meaning of the "Star Spangled Banner" as our preeminent national anthem, "God Bless America" is almost always the second song our citizens fall to in times of great national tragedy. America's unofficial national anthem was composed by Irving Berlin, an immigrant who left Siberia for America when he was only five years old.

While originally written for a musical in 1918, Berlin realized that this was more than a light-hearted musical number. So he set it aside for a more appropriate time. That time came shortly before the Second World War. Berlin released "God Bless America" in November of 1938.

As the nation prepared to enter World War II, it was evident that the whole country—from the mountains, to the prairies, to the oceans white with foam—would need to stay strong, to protect our home sweet home.

"God Bless America" unified all Americans with its simple sentiment, and it unifies us again today.

This song is the heart and soul of our country, and we should honor it by designating it as our National Hymn.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.